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VOICE OF AMERICA  
CURRENT AFFAIRS DIVISION  
FEATURES AND DOCUMENTARIES  
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LINDA CASHDAN

MAY 3, 1976

"LAND OF LAKES"  
MINNESOTA

ANNCR: YOU ARE LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF AMERICA, BROADCASTING  
FROM WASHINGTON.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- SENATOR WALTER F. MONDALE

"HELLO, I'M SENATOR WALTER MONDALE OF THE MIDWESTERN STATE  
OF MINNESOTA AND I'M VERY HAPPY TO INTRODUCE VOICE OF AMERICA  
LISTENERS TO A PROGRAM ABOUT MY STATE.

"I THINK ONE OF THE UNIQUE QUALITIES OF MINNESOTA IS ITS  
REPRESENTATIVENESS. WE HAVE A LARGE SOPHISTICATED URBAN  
COMMUNITY. WE HAVE A VERY ADVANCED AND HIGHLY VARIED  
AGRICULTURE, FROM WHEAT TO BEANS TO CORN TO OATS, LIVESTOCK,  
POULTRY, DAIRY, EVERYTHING; WE ARE THE CENTER OF THE NATION'S  
GRAIN TRADE. WE'RE THE SOURCE OF THE NATION'S IRON ORE.  
WE HAVE THE INNERMOST SEAPORT IN DULUTH.

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"WE HAVE AN ABSOLUTELY REMARKABLE RANGE OF CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES  
...ONE OF THE BEST ORCHESTRAS IN AMERICA, TWO OR THREE  
OUTSTANDING ART GALLERIES, FIRST RATE THEATER. WE HAVE ALL  
THE SPORTS. WE HAVE MAJOR LEAGUE FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, HOCKEY,  
POLO. WE HAVE INCREDIBLE OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES -- MARVELOUS  
LAKES, SKIING, FISHING, HUNTING, SWIMMING. /

"I JUST DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY STATE IN THE UNION THAT HAS  
THE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES AND IS BLESSED WITH MORE NATURAL  
BEAUTY AND A MORE PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE THAN OUR STATE.

"DURING THESE NEXT SEVERAL MINUTES, YOU WILL HEAR MORE ABOUT  
MY STATE OF MINNESOTA... A STATE I'M VERY PROUD TO REPRESENT  
IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE."

TAPE: CUT TWO -- MUSIC THEME -- IN FULL BRIEFLY, FADE AND HOLD UNDER:

ANNCR: IN OBSERVANCE OF THE TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES, THE VOICE OF AMERICA PRESENTS "LAND OF LAKES" ...A PORTRAIT OF MINNESOTA, IN A SERIES IN WHICH WE EXPLORE THE STATES OF THE UNION. "LAND OF LAKES" IS PRODUCED IN COOPERATION WITH AMERICA'S NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO AND IS NARRATED BY -----.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- INSTRUMENTAL THEN SONG: HOLD FOR LYRICS THEN FADE BEHIND:

STEPPIN' OUT ON THE ROAD  
GONNA MAKE MY WAY  
TO THE LAND OF THE PINE AND THE SILVER BIRCH  
AND A THOUSAND CLEAR BLUE LAKES  
GOIN' BY RAIL, GOIN' BY THUMB  
GOIN' ANY WAY I KNOW  
BUT I'M ONLY GOIN' IN ONE DIRECTION  
GOIN' UP TO MY NORTHERN HOME.

NARR: MINNESOTA'S STATE AUTOMOBILE LICENSE TAGS PROCLAIM IT THE "LAND OF TEN THOUSAND LAKES" AND ACTUALLY, THIS IS AN UNDERESTIMATE. THE TRUE FIGURE IS CLOSE TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND. INDEED, THIS STATE WHICH LIES AT THE HEART OF THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT BOASTS ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND SQUARE MILES (8,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS) OF INLAND WATER ...AND AN UNUSUALLY VARIED CLIMATE. MINNESOTA STRETCHES FROM CANADA TO THE STATE OF IOWA, FROM THE EDGE OF THE SUB-ARCTIC FOREST TO THE HEART OF THE AMERICAN CORN BELT. THE "LAND OF LAKES" IS ALSO THE LAND OF FORESTS... AND THE LAND OF TALL GRASS PRAIRIES AS WELL. IT IS ALSO -- PERHAPS MORE THAN ANY OTHER STATE IN THE UNION -- THE LAND OF FOUR DISTINCT SEASONS. TEMPERATURES IN THIS STATE FLUCTUATE FROM ABOUT

NARR:  
(CONT'D)

TWENTY-NINE DEGREES CENTIGRADE IN THE SUMMER DOWN TO  
MINUS TWENTY-ONE DEGREES CENTIGRADE IN THE MIDST OF  
MINNESOTA'S SNOW-COVERED WINTERS. BECAUSE OF SUCH  
EXTREMES -- ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE STATE'S FIVE-MONTH-  
LONG WINTERS -- MINNESOTA'S INHABITANTS HAVE ALWAYS

BEEN THOUGHT OF AS HEARTY FOLKS. /BEGINNING WITH THE  
FIRST INHABITANTS,

TAPE:

CUT FOUR -- INDIAN MUSIC...IN FULL..FADE UNDER BEHIND

NARR:

FIRST THERE WERE THE INDIANS... TWO MAJOR TRIBES OF AMERICAN  
INDIANS, THE SIOUX, AND THE CHIPPEWA.

TAPE:

CUT FIVE -- TREUER

"BOTH MY PARENTS ARE INDIAN AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN  
LIVING IN THAT AREA FOR AN UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF TIME..."

NARR:

PEGGY TREUER, A CHIPPEWA INDIAN...

TAPE:

CUT SIX -- TREUER

"THE SIOUX USED TO BE IN MINNESOTA LONG BEFORE THE CHIPPEWA  
WERE AND THE CHIPPEWA HAD COME DOWN THROUGH CANADA AND THE  
EASTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES AND THEN MIGRATED WEST AND  
THEN WHEN THEY GOT TO MINNESOTA THE SIOUX WERE THERE AND  
THERE WERE BATTLES THAT WENT ON FOR ...THREE OR FOUR DECADES."

NARR:

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IN THE END THE CHIPPEWA WON, DRIVING THE SIOUX SOUTHWARD  
ONTO THE PRAIRIE LAND, WITH THE CHIPPEWA OCCUPYING THE NORTHERN  
FOREST AREAS. THAT MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE RECORDED  
HISTORY OF THE REGION.

TAPE:

CUT SEVEN -- TREUER

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"I REMEMBER MY GREAT GRANDFATHER ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE. WHEN  
I WAS A LITTLE CHILD, HE USED TO SIT US ALL DOWN AND TELL

TAPE: US STORIES ABOUT MOSTLY BATTLING WITH THE SIOUX INDIANS,  
(CONT'D) THE FIGHTS THAT WENT ON..."/

NARR: THE FIRST EUROPEAN INHABITANTS WERE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY FRENCH EXPLORERS SEARCHING FOR A NORTHWEST PASSAGE TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN. IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1819 THAT THE FIRST PERMANENT UNITED STATES SETTLEMENT WAS MADE. AND FOR ABOUT THIRTY YEARS AFTER, IMMIGRATION WAS SLOW. BUT GRADUALLY, THE WORD SPREAD ABOUT THE VALUE OF THE VAST FOREST LANDS OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL MINNESOTA. LUMBERMEN FROM NEW ENGLAND, SEEKING TO EXPLOIT THE PINE, SPRUCE, AND BALSAM FORESTS THAT COVERED NEARLY FORTY PERCENT OF THE LAND, LED A LARGE WAVE OF PERMANENT SETTLERS.

TAPE: MUSIC THEME -- RAISE THEN FADE BEHIND

NARR: NEXT CAME THE SCANDANAVIANS... EMIGRANTS FROM DENMARK, NORWAY, FINLAND AND SWEDEN WHO HAD COME TO THE UNITED STATES -- THE "NEW WORLD" -- BEGAN MAKING THE TREK FROM THE EASTERN SHORES TO THE MIDWEST CLIMATE. THEY FELT RIGHT AT HOME IN THE HEAVY SNOWS OF THE MINNESOTA CLIMATE. /IN THE 1840S, ONE OF

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THESE SETTLERS -- OLAG REINIG -- WROTE A PAMPHLET DESCRIBING THE JOYS OF THE NEW LIFE TO HIS FRIENDS BACK IN NORWAY. THE WINTERS ARE VERY COLD, HE ADMITTED, AND THE HOUSING HERE IS INFERIOR TO THE NORWEGIAN HOME, BUT STILL "WITH A RIFLE, ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO BUY MEAT FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS. THE RIVERS ABOUND WITH FISH," WROTE REINIG. "EVERYONE IS FREE TO ENGAGE IN WHATEVER HONORABLE OCCUPATION HE WISHES AND GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT HAVING TO PRODUCE A PASSPORT." /

NARR:  
(CONT'D)

THE RESULT: IN THE EIGHTEEN FIFTIES AND SIXTIES, THOUSANDS  
MORE SCANDANAVIANS BEGAN POURING INTO THE REGION... THE  
FOREBEARS OF TODAY'S MINNESOTANS. INDEED, THE ANCESTORS  
OF TODAY'S SENATOR:

TAPE:

CUT EIGHT -- MONDALE

"MY GREAT GRANDFATHER IMMIGRATED FROM NORWAY IN 1857... FROM  
A LITTLE TOWN OF MUNDAL, NORWAY, AND OUR NAME COMES FROM  
THAT, IT'S BEEN ANGLICIZED." /

NARR: MINNESOTA BECAME A STATE IN 1858. AND BETWEEN EIGHTEEN SIXTY  
AND EIGHTEEN-SEVENTY, THE POPULATION GREW ONE-HUNDRED FIFTY-  
FIVE PERCENT. BETWEEN EIGHTEEN-SEVENTY AND EIGHTEEN-EIGHTY,  
SEVENTY-EIGHT PERCENT. /AND THE MOST RAPID PERIOD OF SETTLEMENT

IN MINNESOTA CAME IN THE EIGHTEEN EIGHTIES, WHEN HOMESTEADERS  
-- MANY FROM GERMANY, SWEDEN, AND NORWAY -- RUSHED INTO  
WESTERN AND SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA. IT WAS PART OF AMERICA'S  
WESTERN FEVER... DOCUMENTED BY THE NORWEGIAN WRITER OLAG  
ROLVAAG IN HIS CLASSIC BOOK, GIANTS OF THE EARTH:

VOICE:

"NO SOONER HAD THEY REACHED AMERICA THAN THE WEST FEVER HAD  
SMITTEN THE OLD SETTLEMENTS LIKE A PLAGUE. SUCH A THING  
HAD NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND. PEOPLE  
WERE INTOXICATED BY BEWILDERING VISIONS. "GO WEST, GO WEST,  
FOLKS." THE FARTHER WEST THE BETTER THE LAND. MEN BEHELD  
IN FEVERISH DREAMS THE ENDLESS PLAINS, TEEMING WITH FRUITFULNESS,  
GLOWING OUT THERE WHERE DAYS SANK INTO NIGHT, A BEULAH LAND  
(LAND OF PLENTY) OF CORN AND WINE. IT WAS AS IF NOTHING AFFECTED  
PEOPLE IN THOSE DAYS. THEY THREW THEMSELVES INTO THE IMPOSSIBLE  
AND ACCOMPLISHED THE UNBELIEVABLE." /

NARR: IN NINETEEN HUNDRED, CONGRESS PASSED THE FREE HOMESTEAD ACT, WHICH OPENED UP MILLIONS OF ACRES OF INDIAN LAND TO SETTLERS.

THE SON OF ONE HOMESTEADER RECALLS HIS FATHER'S FEELINGS.

TAPE: CUT NINE -- SON OF HOMESTEADER

*O P.*  
"HE HEARD ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT GIVING THEM ONE HUNDRED SIXTY ACRES (64.8 HECTARES) FOR NOTHING AND HE SAID "MAN, WE'RE GONNA GET RICH! WELL, IF THEY'RE GIVING ALL THIS LAND FOR NOTHING, WE'RE GOING OUT THERE AND SEE, SO THEY CAME OUT HERE AND HOMESTEADED IT. THEY BROUGHT WITH THEM THE LITTLE KIDS. I WAS SIX MONTHS OLD WHEN THEY BROUGHT ME OUT HERE. IN 1907."

NARR: SOME OF THE NEW SETTLERS WERE MINERS. HUGE IRON REVERVES HAD BEEN DISCOVERED ALONG THE MESABI RANGE. AT ONE POINT, THE MESABI RANGE PRODUCED MORE THAN HALF OF ALL THE IRON ORE IN THE WORLD. FLOUR MILLING -- SYMBOLIC OF THE STATE'S ECONOMIC DOMINION OVER THE VAST GRAIN BELT, TO THE WEST AND NORTHWEST -- REACHED A PEAK IN 1920, WHEN MINNESOTA WAS THE WORLD'S LARGEST PRODUCER OF FLOUR. TODAY ALTHOUGH IT IS NO LONGER THE LARGEST, HALF THE CAKES BAKED IN THE UNITED STATES STILL COME FROM MINNESOTA FLOUR.

LUMBER, IRON, FLOUR, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS... THESE WERE THE MAIN PRODUCTS THAT WERE EMERGING AS "MINNESOTA EXPORTS" DURING THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY. THEY WERE STILL MINNESOTA EXPORTS TODAY.

BUT SOMETHING ELSE WAS EMERGING TOO. ...A SET OF CHARACTERISTICS THAT WOULD COME TO BE CONSIDERED "MINNESOTAN."

TAPE:

CUT TEN -- WIEFOULD

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"WHAT WE WERE SEEING THEN WAS A PEOPLE THAT SEEMED TO PRIZE THE IDEA OF COOPERATION. THEY HAD A FAR GREATER SENSE OF COMMUNITY THAN THE NATIVE AMERICAN WOULD HAVE... /

NARR:

JOHN WIEFOULD, AUTHOR OF THE BOOK "VOICE OF PROTEST; NORWEGIANS IN AMERICAN POLITICS..."

TAPE:

CUT ELEVEN -- WIEFOULD

"IF YOU TAKE MINNESOTA COMPARED TO OTHER STATES, I WOULD THINK THAT PEOPLE IN MINNESOTA HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN BOTH THEIR POLITICAL PARTIES THAN IN MANY MANY OTHER STATES IN AMERICA. THE REASON FOR THAT IS BOTH PARTIES HERE ARE OPEN. THEY'RE BOTH RELATIVELY PROGRESSIVE AND THEY'RE BOTH PARTIES WHERE A PERSON, IF HE SETS GOALS AND SO FORTH CAN GET INVOLVED. THERE IS STILL A LOT OF INTEGRITY, OPENNESS, AND TRUST IN THE MINNESOTA POLITICAL PROCESS."

NARR:

THE LAND FAMOUS FOR ITS CLEAN AIR AND THE CLEAN LAKES IS ALSO A STATE FAMOUS FOR ITS CLEAN POLITICS... HONEST, OPEN, NO SCANDALS, NO PATRONAGE, AND VIRTUALLY WITHOUT CORRUPTION. THIS FACT, OBSERVERS AGREE, IS IN PART DUE TO THE FACT THAT MINNESOTA VOTERS ARE WELL EDUCATED VOTERS. AND THAT, IN TURN, IS DUE TO ANOTHER CHARACTERISTIC... AGAIN SENATOR MONDALE:

TAPE:

CUT TWELVE -- MONDALE

"MINNESOTA HAS BEEN EDUCATION-NUTS FROM THE BEGINNING, AND I'M PROUD OF THAT."

NARR:

"EDUCATION-NUTS" (CRAZY) TRANSLATES INTO HIGH PER CAPITA EXPENDITURES FOR EDUCATION, THE LOWEST HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE IN THE NATION, AN EXCELLENT STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM... AND TANGIBLE ECONOMIC BY-PRODUCTS AS WELL. MINNESOTA'S PRODUCTIVE AND DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURE FOR EXAMPLE IS CONSIDERED A DIRECT RESULT OF THE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION SERVICE. MINNESOTA'S VAST RANGE

NARR:  
(CONT'D)

OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IS, SENATOR MONDALE SAYS, DUE TO THE FACT THAT STATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS HAVE PRODUCED THE HIGH QUALITY TALENT AND LABOR TO MAKE COMPUTERS AND THE LATEST PRODUCTS OF ELECTRONICS. IN ADDITION, THE SENATOR POINTS TO A MORE SPECIFIC BENEFIT THAT CAME FROM PUBLIC EXPENDITURES FOR EDUCATION: IMPROVED IRON ACTIVITY:

TAPE: CUT THIRTEEN -- MONDALE

"WE WERE RUNNING OUT OF DIRECT SHIPMENT ORES -- ORES THAT YOU DIG OUT OF THE GROUND AND PUT ON A BOAT AND SEND EAST. NOW, BECAUSE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA AND OUR SCHOOL OF MINES, WE HAD SOME GENIUSES OVER THERE THAT COULD FIGURE OUT HOW YOU COULD TAKE WORTHLESS ROCK, CALLED TACONITE, WITH A PERCENTAGE OF ORE FAR BELOW MERCHANDISEABLE ORE, AND DEVELOPED A PROCESS FOR GRINDING IT, AND CREATING A VERY HIGH AND RICH QUALITY THAT IS FAR SUPERIOR TO THE FINEST NATURAL ORES IN THE WORLD. SO THEY TOOK A WHOLE AREA THAT WAS HEADED FOR A DEEP RECESSION AND A GHOST TOWN. INSTEAD OF THAT IT'S PROBABLY THE MOST ACTIVE INDUSTRIAL HIGH INVESTMENT AREA IN THE COUNTRY, IF NOT THE WORLD. IT WAS THE INTERPLAY OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION UPON THE ECONOMY THAT CONVERTED A DISASTER INTO AN INCREDIBLE SUCCESS STORY."

NARR: MINNESOTA RANKS NINETEENTH IN THE UNITED STATES IN POPULATION, BUT BOASTS THE FOURTH LARGEST UNIVERSITY SYSTEM IN THE NATION. AND -- ACCORDING TO A RECENT STUDY, THE STATE RANKS FIRST IN THE NATION IN HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES FOR ITS

INHABITANTS. /MINNESOTA'S MAYO CLINIC -- FAMOUS FOR ITS  
COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE -- HAS BEEN SERVING  
PATIENTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD FOR ALMOST A CENTURY NOW.  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA HOSPITAL HAS BEEN A PIONEER  
IN MEDICAL RESEARCH. /

NARR:  
(CONT'D)

ALTHOUGH THEIR STATE BOASTS SOME BEAUTIFUL AND WELL-PLANNED CITIES, MINNESOTANS ARE BASICALLY OUTDOOR PEOPLE. ONE IN FIFTEEN IS STILL IN FARMING TODAY. THAT IS DOUBLE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. SEVENTY PERCENT OF ALL AMERICAN OLYMPIC HOCKEY TEAMS COME FROM THIS STATE, ONE INDICATION THAT MINNESOTANS HAVE LEARNED TO MAKE A VIRTUE OF ICE AND SNOW. MORE THAN HALF OF THE MINNESOTANS VACATION IN THEIR STATE ... SUMMER OR WINTER, THEY CAN BE SEEN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEIR BEAUTIFUL LAND... THE LAND OF LAKES.

TAPE: CUT FOURTEEN -- HOLD FOR VERSE, THEN FADE BEHIND NARRATIVE

"STEPPIN' OUT, ON THE ROAD  
GONNA MAKE MY WAY  
TO THE LAND OF THE PINE AND THE SILVER BIRCH  
AND A THOUSAND CLEAR BLUE LAKES  
GOIN' BY RAIL, GOIN' BY THUMB  
GOIN' ANY WAY I KNOW  
BUT I'M ONLY GOIN' IN ONE DIRECTION  
GOIN' UP TO MY NORTHERN HOME."

ANNCR: YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO "LAND OF LAKES"...A PORTRAIT OF MINNESOTA, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA IN OBSERVANCE OF THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED STATES.

LAND OF LAKES HAS BEEN ANOTHER IN THE SERIES OF PROGRAMS IN WHICH WE EXPLORE THE STATES OF THE UNION. YOUR NARRATOR WAS ----- AND I AM -----.

TAPE: CUT FIFTEEN -- RAISE MUSIC THEME UP FULL TO CONCLUSION